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Sent: Friday, October 14, 2022 10:21 AM
To: DES SBCC
Subject: energy code- heat pump and ventilation proposals

External Email

Here's a written version of the testimony I'll give today!

Hello members of the SBCC. I'm Rachael Weasley, and I've been a renter in Bellingham for the past 7 years. I consider this my permanent home and hope to reside in Washington State for many years to come. I am concerned by the possibility of continuing to build new gas infrastructure amid a rapidly changing climate. Because gas-powered furnaces and water heaters last 10-25 years, continuing to build with these appliances locks in decades of carbon emissions just as Washington State and the US are pledging to reduce them.

Today, I'm urging the Council to adopt the proposed energy code updates for heat pumps and improved ventilation for gas stoves. As we see more extreme weather conditions, a well-insulated home with a heat pump will do a far better job at maintaining safe temperatures for people during heat waves and wildfire smoke, as it can recirculate and filter indoor air.

Also on the subject of safety, a gas pipeline incident causes a fire or explosion, or causes injury or death every 6 days on average in the US. Here in Bellingham, a similar explosion killed a local teenager who was near Whatcom Creek at the time of explosion.

I am the mother of a young child, my son just turned 4 this past summer, and I hope he also lives in Washington State for many decades. So the proposed building codes hit home for me in two important ways.

One is safety: preventing death from heat exhaustion, gas explosions, and health issues from indoor pollution from natural gas. And Two: I passionately desire a beautiful and intact natural environment for my child to grow up in, to enjoy the forests and local whales and humid air and temperate seasons. Already in the past 7 years in which I've lived here, the weather has changed drastically.

Please do what you can for my child and his generation, to reduce our state's carbon emissions and safeguard the environment for our children to grow up in.

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living in the Salish Sea watershed on the traditional territory of the Lummi and Nooksack Peoples